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Reno Public Meeting  
October 4, 2001

JERRY TARNER: My name is Jerry Turner,

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16 J-e-r-r-y T-a-r-n-e-r.

17 I was born here in 1963, lived here all my  
18 life, and my father was born here in this valley in 1922,  
19 lived here all his life. We had one of -- my great-uncle  
20 and aunt had one of the very first dairies in Nevada  
21 located in this valley shortly after the turn of the  
22 century, so we've been here a while. We have a good feel  
23 for what Nevada is about, I think, and what is valuable  
24 about it.

25 I, too, didn't hear about this until this

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1 afternoon, so I just now jotted down a couple notes. I'm  
2 a somewhat scientifically-minded guy, and I think science  
3 is the best tool for knowing the truth that we have.  
4 Unfortunately, scientists being human beings can be  
5 bought, and I think in this case they have been.

6 We know they can be bought. If anybody has  
7 paid any attention to the tobacco debacle, we know that's  
8 true, we watched it occur for decades. In many cases  
9 they tend to do what's going to protect their job, and in  
10 this case I think many of them are, and I don't mean to  
11 necessarily impugn the integrity of these scientists, but

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12 I think they're clearly -- their motives are not what is  
13 necessarily safest, but what is politically and  
14 financially the most expedient thing to do, and in this  
15 case the political imperative is too strong to believe  
16 them, and if we're going to do the smart thing, the smart  
17 thing to do in my view is to quit making the stuff.  
18 That's the first thing. Once they quit making it, then  
19 we can discuss what to do with what we have.

20 It's my understanding that the facility  
21 that's being prepared right now, if it were to open  
22 tomorrow, would already be too small to store all the  
23 waste that we have and certainly within 20 to 30 years  
24 would be obsolete.

25 This is the third most seismically active

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1 state in the nation behind California and Alaska. I  
2 don't believe there's any way you can guarantee that  
3 you're going to keep this poison out of the groundwater  
4 in the long term, even in the short term, over the next  
5 hundred years.

6 I think we need to look at motives here, and  
7 we need to look at the motives of the people of Nevada,  
8 and we need to look at the motives of the DOE, and the

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9 DOE's motives are politically and financially pushed from  
10 behind. The people of Nevada, we have no political or  
11 financial motive to oppose it. Our motive is the  
12 protection of our public lands and our health and the  
13 health -- long-term health of the ecosystem and the  
14 people that are going to live here for thousands of years  
15 hence.

16 I think if you want to look at it from a  
17 political standpoint, our State Assembly has said no, our  
18 governor has said no, our representatives in Congress say  
19 no, and we all say no, and we don't want this stuff  
20 crammed down our throat. We don't make any of it, we  
21 shouldn't have to accept it. I believe there are better  
22 alternatives for dealing with it on site. I know that  
23 the Congress has mandated it needs to be put away, but  
24 Congress can change the laws as quickly as they make  
25 them.

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1 And, you know, everybody in this state is  
2 opposed to it. I don't think the science supports it.  
3 It's time to let it go and come up a better alternative.